



Transatlantic Dialogue Center

Weekly briefing

May 11 – 17

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The U.S. negotiations with Ukraine and Russia

- On May 11, 2025, Putin offered to resume direct talks with Ukraine **without preconditions**, suggesting a meeting in Istanbul on May 15. President Zelenskyi reacted positively, calling it a “good sign” that Russia is considering ending the war and saying that Ukraine is ready to meet **if Russia confirms a full ceasefire** from May 12. Trump characterized this as “a potentially great day for Russia and Ukraine” and urged Ukraine to accept Putin's offer immediately.
- Turkish President Erdogan reiterated his country's readiness to host the talks, saying that a “historic turning point” had been reached. Meanwhile, world leaders, including German Chancellor Merz, French President Macron, Polish Prime Minister Tusk, and US Special Representative Kellogg, **insisted on a 30-day unconditional ceasefire** before any talks.
- Zelenskyi announced that he would personally wait for Putin in Turkey, but when Russia announced the composition of its delegation, Putin himself was not there. Instead, the Russian team was headed by Vladimir Medinsky, who led the 2022 talks, along with Deputy Foreign Minister Galuzin, Chief of the General Staff Kostyukov, and Deputy Defense Minister Fomin. In response, Trump also refused to participate.
- European diplomats accused Putin of **undermining the peace talks**. According to Bloomberg, The Guardian, and The Independent, before informal consultations of NATO foreign ministers in Antalya, Polish Foreign Minister Sikorski said that **the low level of the Russian delegation** showed Putin's desire to “buy time.” He expressed hope that “the US president will see this mockery for what it is and draw the right conclusions.” German Foreign Minister Waidephul noted the contrast between Ukraine's willingness to negotiate and Russia's desire to “continue the war.”
- **The Ukrainian delegation arrived at the highest level**, headed by Defense Minister Umerov, along with representatives of the Foreign Ministry, the President's Office, the military, and intelligence services. Zelenskyi, assessing the lower level of the Russian delegation, questioned whether they had the authority to make decisions.
- The talks in Istanbul lasted a little over an hour. The two sides agreed **to exchange prisoners of war** in a 1000-for-1000 format and to meet again, although no date was set. According to media reports, Russia **demanding that Ukraine withdraw its troops** from four regions and **threatened to occupy Kharkiv and Sumy regions**, while Medynsky said that “Russia is ready to fight forever.”
- After the talks, European leaders called Russia's demands “unacceptable” in a conversation with Trump. Ukraine continues **to insist on tough sanctions against Russia** if the latter refuses to comply with a full and unconditional ceasefire. Trump said that he would soon speak with Russian representatives and reiterated that a deal without his participation was unlikely.
- In parallel, Ukraine completed all procedures to launch the US-Ukraine Reconstruction Fund. Ukraine's Economy Minister Svyrydenko emphasized that this is “an equal agreement aimed at the future.”
- Pope Leo XIV also suggested the **Vatican as a potential venue for talks**, and Zelenskyi expressed gratitude for the pope's “wise statement.”

International support

- **Pope Leo XIV** has called for a just and lasting peace in Ukraine, emphasizing the need to return deported children and release prisoners. These words came after his first conversation with President Volodymyr Zelenskyi, who thanked him for his support and invited the pontiff to make an apostolic visit to Ukraine. Meanwhile, the Pope was handed lists of Ukrainian prisoners of war.
- Meanwhile, the European Union has provided **€140 billion in aid** to Ukraine **over the three years** of full-scale war, including €50 billion for defense. European Commissioner Andrius Kubilius called it an investment in Europe's security and called for the integration of the EU and Ukraine's defense industries.
- Against the backdrop of intensified defense cooperation, the United States has authorized Germany **to transfer anti-aircraft and artillery weapons** to Ukraine, including 125 GMLRS missiles and 100 Patriot missiles, The New York Times reports.
- In this context, during the opening of the Second EU-Ukraine Defense Industry Forum in Brussels, it was announced that a joint Task Force was created to develop **defense cooperation between Ukraine and the EU**. According to Yevropeiska Pravda, the new interagency structure will work on concrete solutions to strengthen partnership and mutual integration of the defense industry. According to Charles Fries, Deputy Secretary General of the EU External Action Service, this initiative is of strategic importance for the entire European security.
- On the diplomatic front, Ukraine has completed internal preparations for **the first negotiation cluster on EU accession** by adopting roadmaps for reforms in the areas of justice, governance, and democracy.
- At the same time, the Council of Europe supported the creation of a **Special Tribunal to investigate Russia's crimes**. The decision will be implemented by Secretary General Alain Berset.
- Economic pressure on Russia is growing: The EU agreed on the **17th package of sanctions** focused on Russia's shadow oil fleet - 189 vessels are on the list. Additionally, the European Parliament supported a bill **to increase duties on agricultural products and fertilizers** from Russia and Belarus, including a duty of up to €430 per ton of fertilizer by 2028.
- The International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO) officially recognizes **Russia as responsible for the downing of flight MH17**. The next step is for Russia to begin negotiations with the Netherlands and Australia on compensation.
- Russia's economic indicators also indicate pressure: in the first quarter of 2025, **exports of goods decreased by 6.8%** compared to last year to \$94.9 billion. The main reason is the decline in oil prices, The Moscow Times reports, citing the Federal Customs Service of the Russian Federation. Imports remained almost unchanged at \$63.1 billion.

Other

- Iran has denied the transfer of **Fath-360** short-range ballistic missile launchers to Russia. However, according to various sources, last year Iran transferred hundreds of Fath-360 ballistic missiles to Russia.



- Poland's prime minister accuses Russian intelligence services of setting fire to the Marywilka shopping center in Warsaw. Some of the perpetrators have been detained, others are wanted. About 2,000 vendors and their employees were injured in the fire. As a result, **Poland closes the Russian Consulate General** in Krakow.
- The European Union plans **to impose higher duties on Ukrainian goods** imported into the EU after June 6, the FT reports. The bloc has a free trade agreement with Ukraine, but after Russia's invasion in 2022, it temporarily canceled the remaining duties. This agreement is set to expire on June 6. The Ukrainian government estimates that a return to pre-war terms of trade would reduce its revenues by about €3.5 billion a year. The decision to reintroduce tariffs on Ukrainian imports came after Poland led efforts to protect the bloc's farmers.
- The US is opposing Zelenskyi's **invitation to the NATO summit** in June. According to ANSA sources, almost all allies have expressed their surprise to Washington about this. So far, only four Asian partners have received invitations to the summit: Japan, South Korea, Australia, and New Zealand.
- The United States has **proposed to resume the work of the NATO-Russia Council**, Bloomberg reports. In June 2022, after the full-scale invasion, the allies agreed that NATO could no longer consider Russia a partner, and then the Council actually ceased to function. However, according to the newspaper, the idea of restoring the Council as a forum for consultation, cooperation, and decision-making has recently been added to the American plan for a peaceful settlement of the war. This plan stipulates that the United States will recognize Russia's control over Crimea and lift sanctions against Russia. At the same time, Ukraine will receive security guarantees and the opportunity to develop its own army.



Military Support

- The European Union will allocate an additional **900 million euros** from the extraordinary proceeds from Russia's frozen assets **to purchase weapons** and ammunition for Ukraine.
- Ukroboronprom has signed a memorandum of cooperation with Rheinmetall, which provides for the possibility of **creating another joint venture**. The parties intend to start working together to create production facilities in Ukraine for the manufacture of artillery ammunition.
- One of Ukroboronprom's enterprises signed a memorandum of **cooperation with the Spanish company** Escribano Mechanical & Engineering, which specializes in the production of modern combat modules. The partnership provides for the **maintenance and repair of Spanish-made combat modules**, joint development of new weapons, and licensed production of these products at Ukrainian enterprises.
- All **CAESAR** wheeled self-propelled artillery systems manufactured in 2025 will be transferred to the Ukrainian Defense Forces. Emmanuel Macron noted that **the main guarantee of Ukraine's security will be a strong Ukrainian army**, which should be supported by France, including weapons manufactured by the French defense industry.
- Ukraine will receive all the F-16s promised by Norway by the end of 2025. Some of the aircraft have already been delivered. Officially, Norway has announced plans to transfer 6 F-16 fighters to Ukraine.
- The United Kingdom is supplying Ukraine with **decoy models of military equipment** to mislead the Russians about the actual supply of weapons. The models imitate, in particular, Challenger 2 main battle tanks and AS-90 self-propelled artillery systems, which Britain has provided to Ukraine as part of military assistance.
- **Poland is preparing the 47th military aid package** for Ukraine worth about 200 million euros.
- Denmark is preparing a new military aid package for Ukraine. This will be the 26th defense package. According to Zelenskyi, Denmark is one of the leaders in supporting Ukraine.
- More than **20,000 Ukrainian soldiers** have completed in-depth military training in Germany as part of the European Union Military Assistance Mission to support Ukraine (EUMAM Ukraine).
- Ukraine is also participating in the **international exercise Siil 2025** in Estonia: drone instructors are sharing their experience with NATO allies.

Key Events of the Week:

- Russia has launched its summer offensive and is conducting active combat operations along all frontlines, particularly in the Kharkiv and Sumy regions.
- Throughout the week, more than 150 combat engagements are recorded daily, indicating a high intensity of hostilities.
- Russia's tactic of using unconventional mobility tools is confirmed. In assaults in the Kharkiv region, the enemy is actively using motorcycles with infantry, which indicates adaptation to mobile warfare conditions and a reduction in equipment losses.
- Ukraine is actively employing and introducing advanced technologies – the strike drone "Vespa-15" and the ground robot "Spider" have been officially adopted into service.
- Ukrainian intelligence has presented the newest naval drones, Magura, for the first time.
- Russia's air defense system over Crimea is becoming denser, but this is leaving other defense directions exposed.
- The United States and its allies are considering the possibility of deploying peacekeepers on the right bank of the Dnipro River as part of future security guarantees.
- Russian forces have intensified assaults in the Toretsk and Pokrovsk directions, but without any breakthroughs. The most threatening areas are Pokrovsk, Toretsk, and Lyman.
- At the same time, Ukraine is making advances in the Toretsk direction.

12.05	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ A total of 155 combat clashes were recorded yesterday. ➤ According to ISW, Ukrainian forces have recently advanced in the Toretsk area. ➤ According to DeepState, the Russian troops have made gains near Serebrianka and Vodiane Druhe, as well as in Toretsk, near Romanivka and Novooleynivka. ➤ The Ministry of Defense of Ukraine has authorized the use of the ground robot "Spider" in the Armed Forces. This robot, developed by Ukrainian engineers with combat experience in mind, can perform various tasks, such as delivering supplies or assisting engineers. ➤ In temporarily occupied Crimea, the density of air defense is higher than in many regions of Russia, reports Navy Colonel Dmytro Pletenchuk. To maintain control over occupied Crimea, Russia is saturating the peninsula with air defense systems, thereby exposing other directions. "Crimea is of symbolic and logistical value to Russia. Due to sanctions and a shortage of microelectronics, Russians have limited capacity to replenish their losses." He also noted that since the beginning of 2024, Ukrainian forces have destroyed a significant number of Russian air defense systems, the Black Sea Fleet headquarters, and other targets. Despite the losses, Russians continue to launch drones from the territory of Crimea.
13.05	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ A total of 166 combat clashes were recorded yesterday. ➤ According to DeepState, the enemy advanced in Malynivka, Bahatyr, and near Novosilka. ➤ The United States is discussing the possibility of deploying a foreign contingent on the western bank of the Dnipro River as part of future security guarantees, according to Keith Kellogg. This refers to troops from the leading countries of the "coalition of the willing" – the United Kingdom, France, Germany, and Poland.
14.05	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ A total of 163 combat clashes took place over the past 24 hours. ➤ According to DeepState, the enemy captured Nove and advanced in Chasiv Yar, Malynivka, and near Nova Poltavka.
15.05	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ In total, 168 combat engagements were recorded over the past day. ➤ Russia has already begun its summer offensive, reported Pavlo Shamshyn, spokesperson for the "Kharkiv" Operational Tactical Group. "We are observing: the Russians are building up forces, and the summer offensive campaign has in fact already started." According to him, we should not expect a ceasefire in the near future. "I want to draw attention to the situation near the settlement of Lyptsi. There is an escalation observed. The enemy launched an assault using armored vehicles, including tanks. Also, as has become a consistent tactic, motorcycles with infantry are being used." Overall, the situation in this area remains tense. ➤ Russia has already launched offensive operations on all sectors of the front, stated Volodymyr Zelenskyi. "This has been happening for several months now, with the main direction being Sumy. Indeed, 67,000 Russian troops were concentrated there. We took appropriate measures to prevent them from consolidating. Therefore, the Russians are now working on regrouping and restoring their forces.,, ➤ Ukrainian intelligence presented its latest Magura naval drones, capable of destroying enemy ships and aircraft. Over two years of combat use of various modifications of the Magura drone, military intelligence operators hit a total of 17 Russian naval and aerial targets, 15 of which were completely destroyed. These include: two Mi-8 helicopters, two Su-30 fighter jets, and large Black Sea Fleet ships such as Sergey Kotov, Ivanovets, Caesar Kunikov, among other vessels. The estimated damage inflicted on the enemy exceeds half a billion USD.

Losses of the Russian army from 11.05.2025 to 17.05.2025	
Liquidated personnel	6 670
Tanks	32
IFVs	84
Artillery systems / MLRS	262/6
Anti-aircraft warfare systems	5
Aircraft / helicopters	0/1
UAVs	707
Ships/boats	0
Vehicles & fuel tanks	782
Special equipment	8



Situation at the Front

16.05	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ In total, 165 combat engagements took place over the past day. ➤ According to DeepState, the enemy advanced near Rozlyv, Novooleksandrivka, and near Myroliubivka. ➤ According to ISW, Russian forces continue expanding their positions northeast of Pokrovsk and southwest of Toretsk. However, Russia is unlikely to possess enough manpower, materials, and operational planning capacity to both encircle Pokrovsk and conduct a large-scale offensive toward Kostiantynivka in the coming months. ➤ Ukrainian Defense Minister Rustem Umerov, during a brief meeting with journalists in Istanbul, stated that the purpose of the talks was to discuss a ceasefire and prisoner exchange. According to him, the sides agreed that each country would present its own vision of a possible ceasefire, after which the negotiation process would continue. ➤ Ukraine's Ministry of Defense has codified and approved for use the Vespa-15 unmanned aerial system of domestic production. The Vespa-15 drones ("vespa" meaning "wasp" in Italian) have a range of several dozen kilometers, a substantial combat payload, are resistant to electronic warfare (EW), and are capable of striking enemy personnel, armored vehicles, and fortifications both day and night.
17.05	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ In total, 145 combat engagements were recorded over the past day. ➤ According to DeepState, the enemy advanced near Lobkove, Berezivka, and Oleksandropol.

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This week shelling and strikes

Massive attacks per week

- **Attack on the night of May 11:** Air defense shot down 60 Russian drones. Russia attacked Ukraine with 108 strike UAVs from various directions. Sumy region suffered as a result of the attack.
- **Attack on the night of May 12:** Air defense shot down 55 Russian drones; another 30 UAVs failed to reach their targets. In total, Russia launched 108 drones — both strike and decoys. Air defense was active in the east, north, south, and center of the country.
- **Attack on the night of May 13:** A total of 10 UAVs were launched. All were shot down by air defense.
- **Attack on the night of May 14:** Russia attacked Ukraine with an Iskander-M / KN-23 ballistic missile and 145 drones. Air defense shot down 80 enemy UAVs, and another 42 drones failed to reach their targets. As a result of the Russian attack, the Sumy, Kharkiv, Odesa, Donetsk, and Kirovohrad regions were affected.
- **Attack on the night of May 15:** Air defense shot down 62 Russian drones; another 29 decoy UAVs did not reach their targets. In total, Russia launched 110 UAVs at Ukraine — both strike and decoy. Air defense was active in the east, north, west, and center of the country. The attack affected the Sumy, Dnipropetrovsk, Poltava, Kyiv, and Ivano-Frankivsk regions.
- **Attack on the night of May 16:** Air defense shot down 73 out of 112 enemy UAVs. Another 36 drones did not reach their targets. The Russian attack affected the Odesa, Zhytomyr, Chernihiv, Mykolaiv, and Kyiv regions.
- **Attack on the night of May 17:** Air defense shot down 36 out of 62 enemy UAVs. Another 6 drones did not reach their targets. The attack affected the Sumy, Odesa, Kharkiv, Dnipropetrovsk, and Donetsk regions.

Donetsk oblast

- Throughout the week, the Donetsk region suffered from attacks involving glide bombs (KABs) and drones.

On May 12, Russians struck a civilian freight train moving through Donetsk with a drone. As a result, the locomotive driver was injured. On May 14, Russia attacked the city of Kostyantynivka using three FAB-250 aerial bombs. One person was injured in the attack. Two administrative buildings were destroyed. Additionally, warehouse facilities, a truck, and a car were damaged.

- During the week, the following settlements came under attack:

- Volnovakha District: Yalta
- Pokrovsk District: Sviatohorivka, Myrnohrad, Pokrovsk, Zoloty Kolodiaz, Novotroitske, Leontovychi, Hryshyne, Rodynske, Dobropillia, Svitle, Dorozhne, Novoeconomichne, Bokove, Bilytske
- Kramatorsk District: Serhiivka, Illinivka, Dovha Balka, Berestok, Oleksandro-Kalynove, Yablunivka, Pleshchiivka, Nove, Druzhkivka, Zoria, Vasiutynske, Ivanopillia, Oleksandro-Shultyne, Stepanivka, Torske, Yampil, Zarichne, Rai-Oleksandrivka, Sloviansk, Kramatorsk, Novodmytrivka, Lyman, Andriivka, Raihorodok, Kurtivka
- Bakhmut District: Siversk

Kharkiv and the oblast

- Throughout the week, Kharkiv region suffered from attacks involving glide bombs (KABs) and UAVs.

On May 13, Russian forces struck the village of Nechvolodivka with three KABs. As a result, two people were killed and four others were injured. On May 16, Russian forces attacked the city of Kupiansk using an FPV drone. One person was killed and four others were injured. A service vehicle was also damaged in the attack.

During the week, the following settlements came under attack: Blahodativka, Sadovod, Ivashky, Baranivka, Kindrashivka, Ruski Tyshky, Staryi Saltiv, Oleksandrivka, Kupiansk-Vuzlovyyi, Kozacha Lopan, Malyi Burluk, and Kutkivka.

Sumy oblast

- Throughout the week, Sumy region was subjected to attacks involving KABs and FPV drones. Grenades were also dropped from UAVs, and multiple rocket launcher systems (MLRS) were used.

On May 12, Russian forces attacked a service vehicle of the "Sumyoblenergo," energy enterprise in the Sumy community. One person was killed and three others were injured. On May 14, Russian forces launched a missile strike on an industrial facility in the city of Sumy. One person was killed and seven others were injured. One production building was destroyed, and two others were damaged.

Casualties, injuries, and infrastructure damage were also reported in the following communities: Sumy, Shostka, Popivka, Bilopillia, Vorozhba, Seredyna-Buda, Mykolaivka, Yunakivka, Bury, Richky, Bezdrytsia, Velyka Pysarivka, Krolevets, Novoslobidka, and Putyvl.

Zaporizhzhia oblast

- Throughout the week, the Zaporizhzhia region suffered from drone attacks, as well as artillery and MLRS shelling.

On May 11, Russians carried out three strikes using glide bombs (KABs) and an FPV drone on the village of Pavlivka. Two people were injured in the attack, and residential buildings were damaged. On May 16, Russians launched FPV drone attacks on the village of Bilenke. As a result, both residential and non-residential buildings were damaged.

In addition, the following settlements were affected by attacks: Huliaipole, Zaliznychne, Novodarivka, Malynivka, Lobkove, Kamianske, Shcherbaky, Novodanylivka, Mala Tokmachka, Charivne, Stepove, Malokaterynivka, Verkhnia Tyrsa, Zhovta Krucha, Novoandriivka, Novoiakovlivka, Chervone, Bilenke, Preobrazhenka, Temyrivka, Novoivanivka, Stepanohirsk, Zelenyi Hai, Zapasne, Mahdalynivka.

This week shelling and strikes



Dnipro and the oblast

- The cities and villages of Nikopol, Marhanets, Myrove, Pokrovsk, Chervonohryhorivka, Marhanets communities, as well as the Synelnykove district (in particular, the Velyka Mykhailivka, Mezheva, and Nova Pavlivka communities), came under fire. The enemy used heavy artillery, Grad multiple rocket launchers, FPV drones, kamikaze drones, and guided aerial bombs.

Over the course of this period, 2 people were killed, and at least 6 civilians were injured. More than 30 private houses, apartment buildings, kindergartens, a school, shops, a hospital, and infrastructure facilities were damaged.

In particular, on May 13, the Russian army launched a massive attack on the Nikopol area using Grad MLRS, artillery, and FPV drones. Two people were wounded, one of whom was hospitalized. On May 16, during a Grad shelling of Nikopol, a school, a kindergarten, a church, a hospital, seven private homes, ten vehicles, and industrial facilities were damaged.

Odesa oblast

- During the night of May 12, Russia launched a drone strike on Bilhorod-Dnistrovskiy. As a result, civilian infrastructure sustained damage, including residential buildings, an administrative building, and a fire station. A man was injured in one of the damaged houses. On May 16, the Russians struck Odesa and Bilhorod-Dnistrovskiy districts with drones. The strikes destroyed private houses, farm buildings, and a garage with three vehicles inside. Three people were injured in the attack.

Chernihiv oblast

- Throughout the week, the Russian army launched daily attacks on the border communities of the Chernihiv region: Snovsk, Horodnia, Semenivka, and Novhorod-Siverskyi. The Russians used FPV drones, dropped explosive devices from UAVs, and fired mortars and barrel artillery.
- On May 12, in one of the villages of the Snovsk community, a building of a local educational institution and its auxiliary structures were damaged.

Kherson and the oblast

- At least 40 settlements came under fire, including the cities and towns of Kherson, Beryslav, Bilozerka, Antonivka, Veletenske, Osokorivka, Novovorontsova, Tiahynka, Kozatske, Poniativka, Inhulets, Havrylivka, Dniprovsk, Sadove, Kizomys, Stanislav, and others. Russian forces used a wide range of weaponry: loitering munitions (kamikaze drones), artillery, mortars, aircraft, and multiple rocket launchers.

As a result of the shelling, at least 33 civilians were injured, including one child, and two people were killed. At least 15 apartment buildings, 50 private homes, utility structures, a gas station, and other infrastructure were damaged.

In particular, on May 16, the Russian army attacked Kherson using various types of weapons. Railway infrastructure, a gas station, and dozens of residential buildings were damaged. On the same day, three employees of the city military administration who were loading humanitarian aid were caught under fire.

Other oblasts

- The situation remained tense in other parts of Ukraine as well. On May 14, explosions were heard in Kropyvnytskyi, and in the Rivne region, two people were injured and civilian infrastructure was damaged as a result of an attack.
- On May 15, drone attacks triggered explosions in the Ivano-Frankivsk region and in Lutsk.

The week of shelling

Donetsk region



Kharkiv oblast



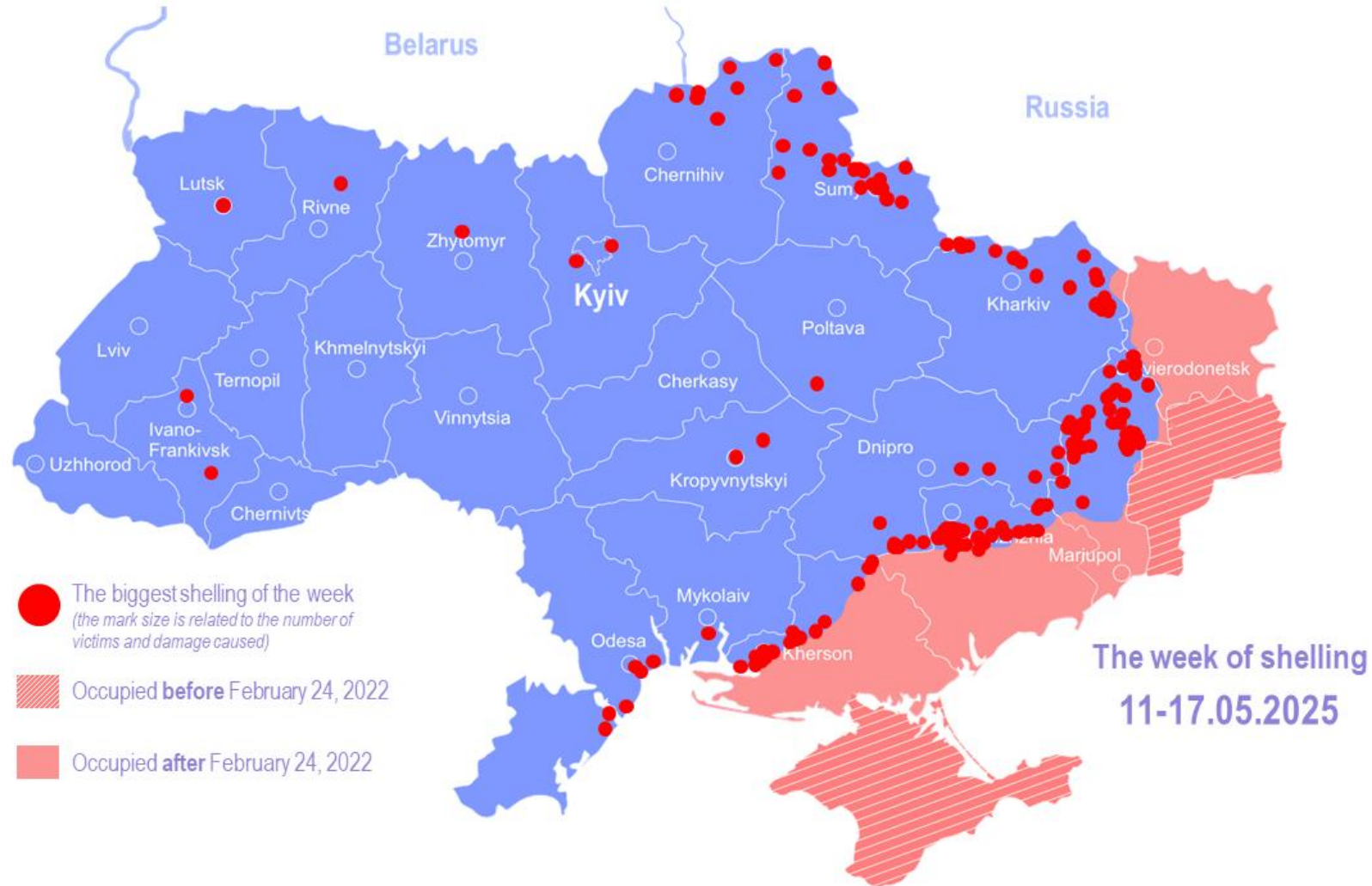
Sumy oblast



Dnipropetrovsk oblast



Odesa oblast



Infrastructure and Energy

- **The Zaporizhzhia nuclear power plant** has been relying on a single power line to supply electricity for more than a week, according to a report by the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA). IAEA Director Rafael Mariano Grossi stated that “the military conflict is hampering efforts to restore the connection to the backup line.” The agency notes that the six reactors, which were shut down in 2022, still require external power to cool the fuel and minimize the risk of an accident. Before the full-scale invasion, the plant had access to ten power lines, ensuring a reliable external power supply.

Consequences of the War

- In Ukraine, the number of people seeking medical help for **mental health disorders**, such as depression, sleep disturbances, apathy, and PTSD, has risen significantly. Since 2022, the number of such patients has doubled, and in some areas, the increase is even greater. **One in three people** in Ukraine is already experiencing depression, shows signs of PTSD, or suffers from other symptoms of mental health disorders. Overall, according to WHO estimates, around nine million Ukrainians currently require or will eventually require psychological support.

Prisoners of War

- Nearly one-third of the Azov fighters who defended Mariupol remain **imprisoned in Russian detention facilities**. It has been over three years since the garrison that held Azovstal was taken captive. Approximately 1,400 Ukrainian soldiers were captured at Azovstal in 2022; only 485 of them have been returned by Russia through prisoner exchanges. Russia has unlawfully convicted 129 Azov servicemen, and more than thirty additional cases are still under review.
- On Friday, May 16, **the bodies of 909 fallen defenders were repatriated** to Ukraine as part of ongoing recovery efforts.

War Crimes

- Between February 24, 2022, and March 15, 2025, Russian troops **carried out at least 31 attacks on hotels in Ukraine**, according to a report by Truth Hounds and Reporters Without Borders. These attacks targeted 25 different hotels. As a result of Russian shelling, 25 journalists and other media professionals were injured, and Reuters correspondent Ryan Evans was killed.

Temporarily Occupied Territories (TOT) and Evacuation

- In Russian-occupied Mariupol, the Kalchyk River is turning into a foul-smelling swamp, according to the City Council of Ukrainian Mariupol. This deterioration is the result of the Russian occupiers' **destruction of the local ecosystem**. No efforts are being made to clean the rivers, the sea, or water resources. The city faces a critical situation with its sewage infrastructure, the water quality remains dangerously poor, and construction crews have reportedly been dumping slag into the river. Additional construction debris has also been discharged into the water. Repeated incidents of fish die-offs have been recorded in both the river and the sea. Last summer, **a cholera-like vibrio bacterium was detected in the Kalchyk River**.
- Police officers **evacuated four civilians** from the frontline town of Beryslav in Kherson Oblast. Officers arrived on site, assisted the residents in packing their personal belongings, and transported them to a safe location.
- In Crimea, Russian authorities have **launched a television channel** named Tavriia, which disseminates disinformation and operates using equipment that was illegally removed from Kherson in 2022. According to the National Resistance Center, during the period of occupation, Russian forces **failed to recruit local personnel** in Kherson willing to deliver Kremlin propaganda on air.

International Support

- **A humanitarian vessel** carrying 20,000 tons of Ukrainian grain has arrived in Turkey as part of the UN World Food Programme's initiative to support crisis-affected regions, including Syria. Despite the ongoing war, Ukraine exported \$11 billion worth of grains and oilseeds between July and January of the 2024/2025 marketing year – an increase of \$1.3 billion compared to the same period last season.
- **Taiwan has allocated \$2 million for demining efforts** in Ukraine. As of March 2025, approximately 139,000 square kilometers, 23% of the country's territory, remain potentially mined. In terms of housing reconstruction, Ukraine will receive \$84 million from the World Bank under the eRecovery program. These funds are expected to enable the repair of 25,000 homes. The financing agreement was signed on May 15.

War Crimes

- Russian occupying forces have unlawfully **detained 13 employees of the Zaporizhzhia Nuclear Power Plant (ZNPP)**, according to Energoatom. Since the beginning of the occupation, Russian authorities have exerted **unprecedented pressure on Ukrainian nuclear workers** who refused to collaborate or sign “contracts” with Russia's state nuclear corporation, Rosatom. **Around 5,000 specialists managed to evacuate** from temporarily occupied Enerhodar. However, at least 13 ZNPP employees remain unlawfully deprived of liberty in the occupied territory. **Seven have been “sentenced” to imprisonment**, three remain incarcerated awaiting “verdicts”, and the whereabouts of the remaining three are unknown – they are considered missing. Additionally, at the onset of the full-scale invasion, Russian forces tortured ZNPP diver Andrii Honcharuk to death.

